## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ational Application No

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B01J23/46 C25B11/04 C25B1/10 H01M4/92 H01M8/18 C02F1/461 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B01J C25B H01M C02F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, COMPENDEX, INSPEC, EMBASE C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° Relevant to claim No. A PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1-8 vol. 1999, no. 01, 29 January 1999 (1999-01-29) & JP 10 273791 A (JAPAN ENERGY CORP), 13 October 1998 (1998-10-13) cited in the application abstract US 2003/057088 A1 (ICHIKAWA MASAO ET AL) A 27 March 2003 (2003-03-27) cited in the application examples US 4 545 886 A (DE NORA ET AL) A 1-8 8 October 1985 (1985-10-08) example 1 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the International filing date or priorily date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document is combined with one or more other such docuother means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. \*&\* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the International search Date of mailing of the international search report 18 February 2005 01/03/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Gosselin, D Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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